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Message Text

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43
ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ABF-01 AGR-10 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 FSE-00 HEW-06 HUD-02

INR-07 INT-05 LOC-01 NASA-02 NSAE-00 NSF-02 OMB-01

OES-05 TRSE-00 /064 W
---------- 098146
R 180920Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8497

UNCLAS TUNIS 1571

PASS SMITHSONIAN

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: OSCI, TGEN, TS
SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN/SFCP--CARTHAGE EXCAVATIONS

REFS: STATE 235; STATE 22088; TUNIS 7805

1. EMBASSY HAS APPROACHED DEP. DIRECTOR OF INTER-
NATIONAL COOPERATION BEN YAHIA OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS INFORMALLY ON SUBJECT PROJECT AS PER REFTELS.
BEN YAHIA TOLD US THAT HE SEES NO RPT NO PARTICULAR
PROBLEM WITH PROJECT BUT THAT IT MUST HAVE FORMAL APPROVAL
OF MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, CULTURE, FINANCE, AND
PLAN, EVEN UNDER 1968 SMITHSONIAN SCIENTIFIC OOPERATION
AGREEMENT. HE SUGGESTED THAT DIRECTOR OF ARCHEOLOGY
INSTITUTE BACHOUCH SHOULD INITIATE PROCESS IN VIEW
HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN "SAVE CARTHAGE" CAMPAIGN.

2. BACHAOUCH, HOWEVER, SAYS THAT UNTIL HE RECEIVES
FIRM PROJECT BUDGET, HE CANNOT OBTAIN NECESSARY APPROVALS.
EMBASSY EXPRESSED HOPE TO BACHAOUCH THAT HE COULD OBTAIN
APPROVALS BASED ON PRELIMINARY BUDGETS SENT BY SMI,
ALTHOUGH FIGURES WILL PROBABLY BE REDUCED, AS INDICATED
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IN LETTER TO EMBASSY FROM DR. NEWMAN OF ASOR. HOWEVER,

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NO INDICATION YET FROM BACHAOUCH THAT THIS WILL BE POSSIBLE. HENCE EMBASSY REQUESTS THAT SMI PROVIDE FINAL BUDGET FIGURES FOR PROJECT AT EARLIEST POSSIBLE DATE SO THAT TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF PROJECT WILL NOT RPT NOT BE DELAYED FURTHER.

3. SMITHSONIAN PLEASE PASS FOLLOWING TO DR. NEWMAN OF ASOR: IN RESPONSE YOUR QUESTION CONCERNING POSSIBLE LOAN FROM TUNISIAN BANK TO FUND INITIAL WORK OF CARTHAGE PROJECT, EMBASSY FEARS THIS MIGHT BELONG AND DIFFICULT PROCESS. WE SUGGEST THAT ASOR INQUIRE AS TO POSSIBLE SMITHSONIAN ADVANCE TO COVER COSTS OF PROJECT FOR FIRST FEW WEEKS.
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